

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

September 26, 2017

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

Eric Schaeffer, Executive Director Environmental Integrity Project 1000 Vermont Ave., N.W. Suite 1100 Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request No. EPA-HQ-2017-007486, Environmental Integrity Project v. EPA, Case No. 1-17-cv-1203 (D.D.C.)

Dear Mr. Schaeffer:

This letter concerns the above-referenced Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated May 18, 2017 that you submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or Agency). In your request, you initially sought "[a]ny and all records pertaining to EPA Administrator Scott's Pruitt's meetings with outside parties, including but not limited to, Administrator Pruitt's schedule of appointments, the persons with whom the Administrator met, their organization affiliations and the topics discussed." The request also sought "[a]ny and all records of travel vouchers or expenses for Administrator Pruitt, including but not limited to, records of payments made and/or any pending claims for reimbursement."

Attached to this letter are records responsive to the above-noted items. These records are being withheld, in part, pursuant to: 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5), the Deliberative Process Privilege, § 552(b)(6), Personal Privacy, § 552(b)(7)(a) Law Enforcement Interference to Law Enforcement Proceedings, § 552(b)(7)(c) Law Enforcement Personal Privacy, and § 552(b)(7)(f), Law Enforcement Life or Physical Safety of an Individual. The enclosed records include Administrator Pruitt's calendar and a travel voucher.

Calendar

Enclosed you will find a full-view version of the Administrator's calendar from February 21 through May 18. We have identified that the format used to produce the calendars for the interim production (February 21, through March 31, 2017) was a limited-view format and did not provide the maximum available detail for the calendar entries. We are, therefore, re-producing the calendars for February 21 through March 31, 2017, using the full-view format, which provides the most detailed view of the calendar. Also produced are the calendars for April 1 through May 18, 2017 in that same detailed format.

There are some differences between the events included on the limited-view calendars produced previously and the full-view version of the calendars on the corresponding days. The differences are attributable to efforts by staff to make the full-view calendar reflect the meetings that actually took

place. For example, scheduling staff corrected inaccurate entries by adding meetings that occurred but were not originally reflected on the schedule, removing meetings that were on the schedule but did not occur or that Administrator Pruitt did not attend, and modifying some entries that occurred in a different way than the original entry implied. EPA is proactively consulting with the National Archives and Records Administration to ensure the agency complies with all Federal Records Act requirements while we take steps to confirm the accuracy of each day of the Administrator's calendar.

Travel Vouchers

On July 18, 2017, EPA uploaded into FOIAonline an interim release of travel vouchers. EPA also sent this information to Ms. Lam in your office. On July 21, Ms. Lam sent a follow-up email to the Assistant United States Attorney Joshua Rogers stating that "there are two trips listed on Administrator Pruitt's calendar for which there are no records of travel vouchers: (1) a trip from March 3 to March 7 and (2) a trip starting on March 31." EIP requested "that EPA either confirm that no travel vouchers or reimbursements exist for these two trips or provide the records of travel vouchers."

To respond to EIP's questions, EPA investigated the matter and determined that the March 6-7, 2017 travel voucher was inadvertently not uploaded to FOIAonline as part of the interim production in this case. That voucher is included with this production and will be uploaded to FOIAonline. EPA found no travel voucher for a trip starting on March 31, as this trip was for personal travel for which no voucher was prepared.

Again, responsive records are being withheld, in part, pursuant to: 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5), the Deliberative Process Privilege, § 552(b)(6), Personal Privacy, § 552(b)(7)(a) Law Enforcement – Interference with Law Enforcement Proceedings, § 552(b)(7)(c) Law Enforcement – Personal Privacy, and § 552(b)(7)(f), Law Enforcement – Life or Physical Safety of an Individual. Certain portions of records are exempt from disclosure because they are predecisional and deliberative and would harm agency decision making; contain personal information that would and/or could be an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy; contain information that could reasonably be expected to interfere with law enforcement; and/or contain information that could threaten the life or physical safety of an individual if released.

There is no billable cost to process your request.

If you have any questions concerning this response, please contact Joshua Rogers, the Assistant United States Attorney at (202)252-2578 or Joshua.Rogers3@usdoj.gov.

Sincerely,

Ryan Jackson

cc: Joshua Rogers, Joshua.Rogers3@usdoj.gov